

Minutes of an Inaugural Meeting of the Amherstburg Municipal Council held Monday, December 4, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor Tony DiBartolomeo
Deputy Mayor Robert Pillon
Councillor Mickey Bezaire
Councillor Lynne Fox
Councillor Frank Gorham
Councillor Anthony Leardi
Councillor Rosa White

ALSO PRESENT:

Bill King, C.A.O.
David Mailloux, Clerk
Paul Beneteau, Treasurer

INVOCATION:

Father Michael Brand will deliver the Invocation.

DECLARATION OF ELECTED OFFICE

The Clerk will administer the Declaration of Elected Office and the Oath of Office to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of the Amherstburg Municipal Council.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Mayor Tony DiBartolomeo will deliver his Inaugural Address.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor DiBartolomeo will announce the Committee Appointments.

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. John Burkhardt will deliver the closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by
seconded by

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

- § **Public Services Committee:** All members of council, chaired by R. Pillon.
- § **General Government Committee:** All members of council, chaired by L. Fox.
- § **Drainage Court of Revision:** All members of council, chaired by T. DiBartolomeo
- § **Negotiations Committee:** M. Bezaire, A. Leardi, T. DiBartolomeo, chaired by M. Bezaire.
- § **Support Team:** Legal Council, CAO, Treasurer.
- § **Essex Region Conservation Authority:** R. Pillon, A. Leardi.
- § **Police Services Board:** T. DiBartolomeo, L. Fox.
- § **Detroit River Cleanup Committee:** R. White
- § **Detroit River Heritage Committee:** T. DiBartolomeo
- § **LACAC:** L. Fox, F. Gorham.
- § **Essex Power:** R. Pillon
- § **House of Shalom Representative:** A. Leardi
- § **Chamber of Commerce:** A. Leardi
- § **Municipal Events Committee:** R. White, F. Gorham.
- § **Co-An Park:** M. Bezaire.
- § **Amherstburg Recreation Committee:** M. Bezaire, R. White.
- § **Dog Pound Committee:** M. Bezaire.
- § **Mayor=s Committee for Economic Development:** T. DiBartolomeo, L. Fox, F. Gorham.
R. White
(Terms of reference to be approved by Council)

Inaugural address, Mayor Tony DiBartolomeo, December 4, 2000

Reverend sirs elected officials' family members, Mrs. DiPasquale and the grade five students from St. Bernard School; I want to welcome you to today's inaugural meeting of our newly elected council.

I would like to start off by thanking the residents of Amherstburg for showing their confidence in me, and electing me Mayor of Amherstburg for the 2000 to 2003 term of council.

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Congratulate members of council on their successful election bid.

Most importantly let us thank our families whose support makes it possible for us to seek elected office, and commit the time and energy needed to carry out the duties and responsibilities of our elected positions.

At this time I would like to pay tribute to our families and have each member of council introduce their family.

This year's municipal elections have brought four new faces to council. Although new to municipal politics these individuals are certainly not new to the notion of public service as each can boast a long list of accomplishments and involvement within our community. As mayor I would ask that as members of council we continue to be active within our community outside of the confines of elected office.

If you are currently a member of a volunteer group please continue your involvement as there are so many worthwhile organizations within our community.

Active community involvement also places you closer to the people we represent, and allows you to hear first hand their concerns and needs.

We have with us today the grade five class from St. Bernard School; this to me is symbolic of council's role and responsibilities. Yes, we need to ensure that we meet the community's current needs, but we must also ensure that we provide for the future needs of today's young children, who will be tomorrow's community leaders.

A future that revolves around sound policies that ensures a healthy environment for a growing community **environmentally, economically and socially.**

If we are to meet tomorrow's challenges, we must undertake to ensure that the main focus of this council is geared towards growth. Growth in our assessment base, through future growth in our housing stock, and the need to make significant inroads towards attracting new investors to Amherstburg. Investors who will develop the serviced industrial parks and commercial developments needed to attract new industries to Amherstburg, along with a continued desire to increase tourism.

Many of the tools needed to accomplish these tasks are already in place:

A resolution already exists that calls upon the recreation committee to promote Amherstburg through sporting events and empowering them to attract tournaments to Amherstburg as a means of attracting more tourism dollars to our community.

The Municipal Events Committee has been established to work with current festivals and develop new tourism initiatives that promote Amherstburg and expand our tourism industry. This committee has had a number of successful events during this past year and has worked to assist other events within the community.

It is important to me that we attract people to Amherstburg and create the activity, which becomes **the key to prosperity**. Activity results in foot traffic throughout your community, and this becomes the incentive to have entrepreneurs locate new businesses in Amherstburg.

Over this past term of council the Chamber has become active in promoting Amherstburg and I congratulate them on their efforts. Congratulations to the newly elected board as we look forward to working with them on many new initiatives.

By focusing on growth, there may be a perception among our seniors *that their needs may become a secondary concern of council*. It is **very important** that we not lose sight of our senior's needs, and I put out a challenge to all members of council, to come forward with new initiatives directed at ensuring that the needs of Amherstburg's seniors are **always** being met.

Today's agenda includes council's committee appointments. I have attempted to place each of you in areas where your own skills and experiences can be capitalized upon for the benefit of the people we represent.

At our December 11th meeting I will be asking you to support the terms of reference of an economic development committee geared **towards creating a positive business environment**, by ensuring that our municipal policies are conducive to promoting growth. You will also be asked to consider empowering the committee to promote the Town in an attempt to attract new commercial and industrial development to Amherstburg.

It is my desire that the Committee's terms of reference will allow it to develop a proposal for council's consideration, that creates the initiative that leads us towards having an economic development office for the Town of Amherstburg, *in partnership with* the Chamber of Commerce.

It will be a necessary to investigate all means of grant funding for this initiative and to meet with other communities who have already established economic development offices and **build upon their successes**.

I am anticipating a committee made up of three representatives from council, a *Chamber appointment*, and three members at large.

The committee will also be called upon to liaison with the Windsor and Essex County Development Commission and the South Essex Economic Development Corporation, and benefit from their expertise, and contacts within the public and private sector.

It is my intention to provide council with a monthly mayor's report, detailing my activities for the month. This allows council to keep abreast of the issues being dealt with through the mayor's office and will afford you the opportunity to provide your input as well.

As your mayor, along with the deputy mayor, we will be your representatives on County council. As a result of downloading the County budget now represents a substantial portion of our residents' tax bill. It is my desire to have a monthly written report from County Council on matters of significance for the Town of Amherstburg. It would be my intention to instill these responsibilities with our Deputy Mayor.

Some of you will be sitting on various committees whose minutes may not be forwarded to council, and it would therefore be appreciated if you would take it upon yourselves to provide the rest of council with written committee updates as well.

As mayor for the Town of Amherstburg, I am looking forward to having a vibrant results oriented council, which works together for the betterment of the community.

Thank you for your time and patience.